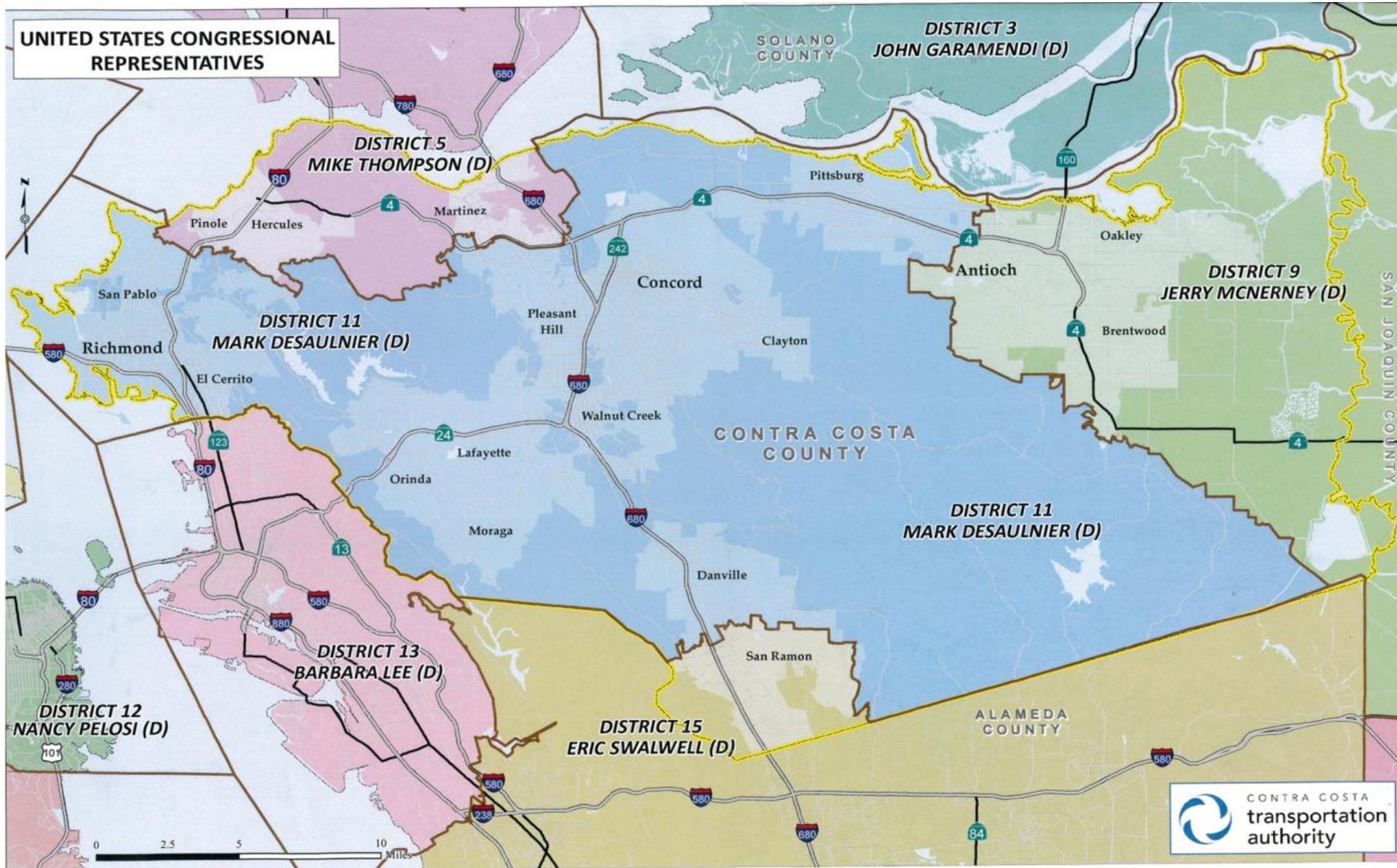


Progressive Town Hall

with special guest Congressman Mark Pocan

MAY 9, 2022



Protecting against Attacks on Your Constitutional Rights

- ▶ The recently **leaked draft opinion from the Supreme Court** indicating they would vote to overturn *Roe V. Wade* is an **attack on reproductive freedom and the constitutional right to make one's own health care decisions**.
 - ▶ Additionally, this decision would set a precedent that **threatens other personal liberties**, including the right of LGBTQ+ Americans to marry.
 - ▶ **What are Democrats doing about it?**
 - ▶ The House has already passed the **Women's Health Protection Act**, which would protect by law a women's constitutional right to access abortion.

Supporting Worker's Rights

- ▶ **Union members have 20% higher wages, more paid leave**, are 28% more likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance, and have better access to pensions than their non-union counterparts.
- ▶ **Union coverage today is half of what it was 40 years ago**, and research shows this **de-unionization accounts for up to one third of the growth in income and wealth inequality** in our country.
- ▶ Corporate employers spend nearly \$340 million per year on union avoidance consultants to lead anti-union campaigns.
- ▶ **Democrats passed the PRO Act**, which would:
 - ▶ Enact meaningful, enforceable penalties for companies that violate workers' rights.
 - ▶ Expand workers' collective bargaining rights.
 - ▶ Strengthen workers' access to fair union elections.

Lowering Costs of Prescription Drugs

- ▶ Today, annual per capita spending on prescription drugs is more than \$1,200, and **the total out-of-pocket costs that consumers pay for drugs is more than \$80 billion per year.**
- ▶ In 2018, **3 in 10 adults chose to forgo prescribed medication** due to the high cost.
- ▶ The average profit margin for a large drug company is between 15 and 20 percent, compared to an average large company margin in other sectors between 4 and 9 percent.
- ▶ **House Democrats passed the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act**, which would allow the federal government to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs, driving down costs for Americans.

Expanding Access to Early Education & Child Care

- ▶ Children who attend preschool can better socialize, manage stress, solve problems, and have higher job earnings later in life.
 - ▶ Participation in **Head Start increases a student's likelihood of pursuing some higher education** 4-12 percentage points.
- ▶ Families headed by married couples **spend about 10% of household income on child care** while **single-parent families spend about 34%** of their income.
- ▶ **House Education and Labor Committee's Key Priorities:**
 - ▶ ***Child Care for Working Families Act*** – would ensure affordable, high-quality child care for working class families and support universal access to high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year olds.

Combating Climate Change

- ▶ Practically **100% of the global warming** witnessed over the past 150 years can be **attributed to human activity**.
- ▶ **If we do not cut carbon emissions in the next 30 years**, rising sea levels, more extreme weather, and water and crop scarcity may cause as many as **143 million people to be displaced**.
- ▶ We **must transition to clean energy** by:
 - ▶ **Growing Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure** – *Clean Corridors Act*
 - ▶ **Investing in low-carbon, efficient transportation** corridors all **while creating good paying union jobs** – *Jobs for a Carbon Free Transportation System Act*.
 - ▶ **Providing direct support for communities** to convene industry, the local fossil fuel workforce, and environmental advocates **to plan to transition workers** to meaningful sustainable work.

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